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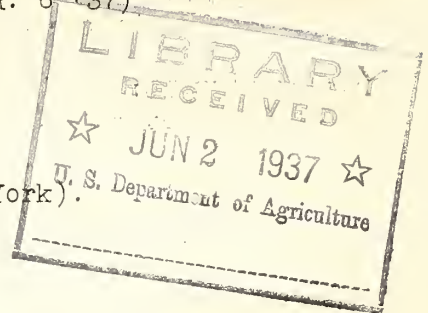
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C A S T

GEORGE SHARP.....Carl Schmidt
BOB SIMPKINS.....Bob Simpkins
JOHN TINDALL.....Fred Tindall
GEORGE TINDALL, JR.....William Black
GEORGE TINDALL, SR.....John Tindall
JOSH TINDALL.....Josh Tindall
JOE TURPIN.....Joe Turpin
MRS. GEORGE SMITH.....Mrs. George Smith
ANNA SCHMIDT.....Anna Schmidt
LILLIAN TINDALL.....Lillian Tindall

MERCER COUNTY (NJ) 4-H CLUB BROADCAST
(NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, MAR. 6 1937)

RADIO CITY, NEW YORK



(WASHINGTON CUE:and we take you now to New York)

ANNOUNCER:

Presenting the story of the Yardville 4-H Dairy Club of Yardville, in Mercer County, New Jersey.

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

We turn back the pages of time fifteen years...to 1922...for the beginning of our story. We find that Yardville, lying in southern Mercer County, New Jersey, is an agricultural section whose farmers are mostly dairymen and potato growers...but the area is reducing potato acreage and enlarging dairy operations...black and white Holsteins are becoming more numerous on the countryside...these animals are mostly grades...purebreds are conspicuous by their absence...few dairy farms have herd sires worthy of the name...bovine tuberculosis infection is widespread...in fewer words, dairy farming of fifteen years ago in Yardville meant little more than keeping cows...and very ordinary cows, at that...and what of the farm boys and girls of Yardville?...what special interests does that community hold for them?...there are the home ties, to be sure...and day school and Sunday School...but no organization functioning solely for rural youth; there is nothing comparable to the Boy or Girl Scouts or the Y. M. C. A. in urban areas. Aside from the annual Sunday School picnic, an occasional harvest home or a trip to town, the opportunities for boys and girls of Yardville to participate in young people's activities are meagre indeed. No wonder, then, that the eyes of Yardville's young folks are centered on 20-year-old George Sharp as news spreads that he has become the proud possessor of a purebred heifer...One day early in 1922 we find George chopping wood near the barn on his Dad's farm...(FADING and MUSIC ends)

SOUND: CHOPPING WOOD, AND WOOD BEING THROWN ON PILE

GEORGE SHARP:

There...guess that's enough to hold the wood box for another day... Say--here come the Tindalls...Hi! George, Hi! John.

JOHN TINDALL:

Hello.

GEORGE TINDALL:

Hi.

(over)

JOHN TINDALL:

Is it true that you bought a new heifer... a purebred Holstein?

GEORGE SHARP:

I certainly have...she's in the barn...want to see her?

GEORGE TINDALL:

You bet we do.

GEORGE SHARP:

Come on (SOUND: BARN DOOR SLIDES OPEN, THEN SLIDES BACK TO CLOSE)
there...isn't she a beauty? (SOUND: HEIFER MOOS)

JOHN TINDALL:

Gee...she is nice.

GEORGE TINDALL:

And she's really yours, George?

GEORGE SHARP:

Of course she's mine. I'm a member of the 4-H dairy club over in Ewing Township...Gee, there ain't much sense in belonging to the club unless I have an animal of my own, is there? I feed her, I take care of her...and I own her.

GEORGE TINDALL:

But how about when she's milking? Will she be your's or your Dad's?

GEORGE SHARP:

Say, you boys are hard to convince. She'll be mine when she's milking, just as she is now...and the milk money will be mine. Guess you two don't know much about 4-H club work, do you?

JOHN TINDALL:

No, I don't.

GEORGE TINDALL:

Neither do I.

GEORGE SHARP:

Well, club work's lots of fun. I have to go nine miles to get to meetings because there's no club here in Yardville. But it's worth it. Of course you have to learn like you do in school, but somehow it's different. Mr. Turpin, the Club Agent, teaches us the best way to feed our animals, and how to take care of them. He's strong for purebreds, like this one here. There's lots of fun at club meetings, too. We have our own officers...we put on plays...go on picnics...and we always have eats after meetings.

GEORGE TINDALL:

Gee, that sounds swell...wish I could belong to something like that.

JOHN TINDALL:

Me, too...but nine miles is too far for us to drive Nell by ourselves.

GEORGE SHARP:

S-a-y...why don't you fellows ask your Dad about joining a 4-H club?...maybe we could get Mr. Turpin to start one right here in Yardville.

JOHN TINDALL:

And George and I would have purebred calves of our own?

GEORGE SHARP:

Sure...start right--with purebred stock.

GEORGE TINDALL:

But...how much does a purebred like this one cost?

GEORGE SHARP:

Paid seventy-five dollars for her...you can't get a good one for less.

GEORGE TINDALL:

(Long whistle, then) Seventy-five dollars for one calf! What would Pop say?

JOHN TINDALL:

He'd say plenty...I never saw him get more than six dollars for a calf at home. Of course, they only go for veal, but...

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

Youthful hopes were running high as the Tindall boys turned homeward...they wanted to be 4-H club members...and own a purebred calf...here was something that held promise of adding zest to their everyday activities, of bringing a new and stimulating interest to a community they had found nearly devoid of recreational advantages...with the enthusiasm of youth they laid the proposal before their father, George Tindall. He listened, sympathetically...his interest was aroused...and that led to a meeting between George Tindall and Joseph B. Turpin, who had come into Mercer County as New Jersey's first 4-H club agent in late 1918...We listen in just as Turpin has explained the meaning of 4-H...(MUSIC FADES)...

GEORGE TINDALL:

That's interesting, Mr. Turpin...I never did understand what that 4-H stood for...

TURPIN:

It means training and development in head...heart...hands...and in health...

GEORGE TINDALL:

Wal, now...you can't expect me--a father--to find any fault with any such thing as that.

JOE TURPIN:

I'd be disappointed if you did.

GEORGE TINDALL:

Mr. Turpin, we're plain folks. We work hard to make a go of things. And the boys do their share. They're good boys and my wife and I want to do everything we can for them. This 4-H business looks like the real things for the youngsters here in Yardville...I want my boys in it...(FADING)

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

Turpin was encouraged...he talked with more parents...some were hostile to an idea that was then foreign to Yardville, and some were merely indifferent...Turpin was not finding it easy to plant an idea where its acceptance would alter habits of generations...he also was finding that the scarcity of good purebreds, and their high price, were difficult barriers to hurdle...but Turpin persisted...and by ploughing time in 1922 five boys had obtained their parents' consent to become charter members of the Yardville 4-H Dairy Club...an order was placed for the purebred calves for the boys. The calves arrived and were turned over to their young, proud owners...those five charter members were the envy of the youth of Yardville...and one day in April, 1922, after the boys have fed and bedded their animals, they gather with Turpin in the home of one of the group for the organization meeting of their club...we listen in as Bob Simpkins, the first president, runs the meeting...(MUSIC FADES).

PRESIDENT:

Mr. Turpin has the floor.

TURPIN:

And now, fellows you've got to decide where to hold monthly meetings of the Club. Shall they be in the school house or in homes of the members?

JOHN TINDALL:

No...not in the school house!

SIMPKINS:

Let's meet in our homes. Then we could see the club calves as we visit around. It will give us a chance to find out how they're getting along.

JOHN TINDALL:

That's a good idea. Dad said he'd like to have next month's meeting at our house. And Mom promised to bake a chocolate cake special for the club.

THIRD BOY:

Move we have the June meetin' at the Tindall's.

FOURTH BOY:

Second the motion.

PRESIDENT:

All in favor say "aye"...opposed "no".

ALL BOYS:

Aye!

PRESIDENT:

Carried!

(SOUND: GAVEL OVER CARRIED)

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

Perhaps the promise of Mrs. Tindall's chocolate cake swung the election, but whatever the motive, the boys chose wisely. The wholesome atmosphere of the farm homes proved an ideal meeting place for these young people...purebred dairy animals were the first link in the chain of common interest that bound them together...but other links were forged as the club met from month to month...latent pride in accomplishment was stimulated in these youngsters...they were charter members of the Yardville 4-H Dairy Club...they belonged...the spirit of one for all, and all for one, was more than a pretty phrase to them...and with it they made those monthly club meetings highlights in the social life of the group...their parents, some of them uncertain as to what it was all about in the early days of the club, soon got the 4-H spirit...and why not?...training and development...head...heart...hands...and health...what stronger appeal in behalf of his sons and daughters can be made of any parent?...so Mother and Dad were always host and hostess when the club met in their home...and they rejoiced in the echoing laughter and wholesome activity of their children and their friends...and wished that 4-H clubs had been a part of the rural life of their own younger days...The sociologist, were he to report on the history of this club, would say that a youth movement started in Yardville back there in 1922...Yardville folds simply said the 4-H club grew by leaps and bounds...In three years the membership had increased to twenty-five boys and girls. It was inevitable that this 4-H Club should continue to grow, that it should attract members not only from Yardville but from five of eight townships in Mercer County...reasons for this growth are explained by Club Agent Turpin in addressing a group of his co-workers in the New Jersey Extension Service. (MUSIC FADES)...

TURPIN:

And we believe that the Yardville Club, the oldest in New Jersey, provides an excellent example of what a 4-H club can do, not only for its members but also for an entire community...I think it is significant that farmers in Yardville and vicinity made no serious effort to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in their herds until their sons and daughters led the way by starting with none but t-b tested purebreds. Nearly all of our club-owned animals went into barns where the father housed the farm herd, which on most places was t-b infected. Yet, as the years went by, with the son's or the daughter's animals making splendid records, it was obvious that purebred, disease-free stock was a growing need...so the parents, one by one, made application to the State to have their herds tested...in like manner, dairymen of experience were learning the value of registered herd sires from their children...the educational programs of the Club focused increased attention on the need for more sanitary practices in milk production, for better management of pastures, for better dairy farm records...in short, many a Mercer County dairyman is now a better producer because his club-member children have shown him the way.

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

And now let's go with Mr. Turpin as he calls at the homes of some of his Yardville Dairy Club members. First, at Josh Tindall's. You'll recognize the Tindall name again. It happens that Josh is the uncle of George and John, two of the club's charter members...and three of his sons have made outstanding records in club work. Here we are at Jos Tindall's... the time is today...(MUSIC FADES)...

TURPIN:

Hello, Josh.

JOSH TINDALL:

Way, hello, Turpin, I'm glad to see you.

TURPIN:

Thanks...Just want to remind you that on April second we're having the fifteenth anniversary party of the organization of the Yardville 4-H Dairy Club...and we want you and Mrs. Tindall there.

JOSH TINDALL:

We'll be there. I'd still be milking ordinary cows if that Club hadn't started. And there's a lot more just like me, if they want to be frank...Yes Siree! Turpin, club work's brought some big changes around here in the last fifteen years...and Ma and me will be right on deck for that anniversary party, and the boys'll be with us...(FADING)

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

So much for the testimony of Josh Tindall, New Jersey dairy farmer and the father of three boys who made good in the Yardville Dairy Club.

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

Continuing our journey with Club Agent Turpin, we turn in at the George Smith Farm, where two boys and one girl of the family have made their mark in club work...On this farm we get the Mother's point of view as we hear Mrs. Smith speak to Turpin...(MUSIC FADES)...

MRS. SMITH:

I think it's fine that you are planning for a fifteen-year celebration of the Yardville Dairy Club, Mr. Turpin...We wouldn't miss it for anything...The Yardville Junior Dairy Club has changed the whole farm outlook for us.

TURPIN:

Just how did your children get started in club work?

MRS. SMITH:

It came about this way. We let Alvin join the club in 1924. He bought a purebred Guernsey calf. Her name was Mignonnette's Fortune and was well named.

TURPIN:

She was a real animal.

MRS. SMITH:

I doubt if any other club animal in the county or in New Jersey has done so well by her owner. Alvin now has twenty-one of her offspring and his brother has five. Every one of these is a registered, purebred Guernsey. Only six of our 32 Guernseys are not Minnie's progeny.

TURPIN:

I can see that dairying was becoming more important for you.

MRS. SMITH:

Yes, dairying, once only a minor item here, has become our chief income...we call it our life work. I don't believe Alvin would have stayed on the farm if it had not been for club work.

TURPIN:

Wasn't Alvin one of the first boys to start with Guernseys around here?

MRS. SMITH:

Yes, and I'll never forget how the neighbors laughed at Alvin for starting with a Guernsey. We had grade Holsteins ourselves then, like most everyone around here...milk wasn't generally sold on a butterfat basis in those days...but it wasn't very long before premiums were paid for high fat content...and then Alvin found he hadn't made any mistake...today we get nine cents a quart for all the milk from our Guernsey cows...and the dealer picks up the milk right here at the farm.

TURPIN:

Mrs. Smith, you've done your share in making this club successful. It seems to me as though you haven't missed a meeting in years, and the cake you always bring certainly helps when the boys and girls are ready to eat.

MRS. SMITH:

I've hardly missed a meeting, and I've baked a cake for nearly every one of them. That shows what I think of our club.

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

Now we continue with Turpin as he goes to the George Tindall farm... he is to see Lillian, daughter of George Tindall, and one of New Jersey's leading dairymaids...In the Yardville Club, she holds the important position of recreational director...it's her job to plan things so the members have a good time at club meetings...and we hear Lillian Tindall now, telling the Club Agent of her plans for future meetings...(MUSIC FADES)...

LILLIAN TINDALL:

Our recreational program for the remainder of the year is ready for presentation at our next meeting. We plan a music appreciation program as one of the features. We will learn to sing some vocal numbers and to identify some instrumental numbers--all compositions by American Composers, for we are following the National 4-H Radio Hour Series for 1937. In April we are going to have a Bingo Game, playing just for the fun of it. We are going to hold a joint meeting with the Hopewell Junior Dairy Club in July. We always have a game of baseball with this club and both boys and girls play. Our business meeting will follow the game. We are going to try a Scavenger Hunt. In addition to these features there will be indoor and outdoor games of various kinds at all other meetings.

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

Our visiting is done, and now we are to hear from Anna Schmidt, secretary of the Yardville Club...Anna started club work at eight years of age, when her grandfather gave her a purebred calf...and ever since Anna has been an enthusiastic club member...today she is well known in all the 4-H dairy shows in New Jersey, and even at State Fair, for her outstanding showmanship...she's an all-around club member, too...all right, Anna Schmidt... (MUSIC FADES)...

ANNA SCHMIDT:

I am very happy to be able to speak to Farm and Home Hour friends today...and to say, in behalf of all the Yardville Club members, that we think club work is just the thing for farm boys and girls...we work hard with our animals, but really, it has been good fun...in fifteen years our club has enrolled more than seventy-five boys and girls...that total represents a substantial majority of all the boys and girls on dairy farms in southern Mercer County...next month we are to have our fifteenth anniversary celebration...there will be a dinner limited, I'm sorry to say, to only two hundred and fifty club members, their parents, and some friends...we just don't have the room for more...but after the dinner we're going to have entertainment for a much larger number...Oh! It's going to be a grand affair, and we're all looking forward to it...I wish all of you could be with us to share in the fun...(FADING)...

MUSIC.

NARRATOR:

And so on this note of pleasant anticipation we leave these happy, wholesome youngsters of the Yardville 4-H Dairy Club, in Mercer County, New Jersey...It is a youth organization that has served both its members and the community at large...The record of the Yardville Club for fifteen years is a human story of creating new and wider opportunities for farm boys and girls...a story of building well for a fuller and richer rural life... (MUSIC FADES)...

ANNOUNCER:

And now, with this fifteen-year story of the Yardville 4-H Dairy Club brought up to date, we take you to Washington.